DECLASSIFIED PA/HO, Department of State E.O. 12958, as amended June 22, 2004

## WASHINGTON, D.C. 20546



OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

September 4, 1970

Academician M. V. Keldysh President, Academy of Sciences of the USSR Leninsky Prospect 14 Moscow, U-71, USSR

Dear Academician Keldysh:

Frank Borman has told me of your interest in further pursuing the matter of common docking equipment for U.S. and Soviet spacecraft when you visit Washington early next year.

NASA looks forward to discussing this matter with you at that time. Our invitation to you in my letter of July 31 to send Soviet specialists to the NASA Manned Spacecraft Center at Houston to view our docking arrangements and to initiate technical discussion is, of course, still open, and we hope you will accept.

In our discussions, we will propose to you that, in addition to the joint U.S.-U.S.S.R. development of common docking equipment, we consider together a more immediate opportunity. We believe that we could readily install a Soviet docking fixture in the Multiple Docking Adapter of our Skylab scheduled for launch in November, 1972.

Soviet spacecraft could then utilize this docking device to rendezvous and dock with the Skylab. Such an arrangement would create a wide range of possible further cooperative activities, including joint work by U.S. and Soviet scientists in Skylab during 1973. A summary of the Skylab space station prototype is enclosed.

Sincerely,

T. O. Paine Administrator